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TWO LETTERS FROM GOV. NINIAN EDWARDS

The originals of these two letters are in the Illinois State Historical Library, they having been presented to the Historical Society by Miss Louise I. Enos, the letters having been written to her grandfather, Mr. Pascal P. Enos, by Governor Edwards. These letters were written before the days of sealed envelopes and were merely folded and sealed with wax, and addressed. One is written jointly to Mr. Enos and Doctor Todd and is undated; the other to Mr. Enos, on political matters, is dated "2 Dec. 1829."

Belleville, Illinois.

Gentlemen,

Confidential

I have reason sufficient to believe that Genl Jackson is determined to re-examine the removals that have taken place and if he finds that he has been misled, to correct what has been done—And that he will take up the whole subject of nominations for the Senate without any particular regard to the temporary appointments which he has felt himself bound to make.

Mr. McLean is disposed to be faithful to his engagements, and has cause of opposition to Kinney & Co. sufficient to stimulate him to the best exertions. But what can he do without facts? Nothing would so completely destroy the influence of those who have caused you to be proscribed as to show adequate objections to your successors—But who is to do that? Who is to furnish McLean with the requisite

documents? Need I remind you of the fable of Hercules and the Waggoner—If I could get the facts I would not hesitate to use them. You have no cause for forbearance. I want none, even with much less interest, but I have no time to collect facts, and the intention of my family forbids my leaving home. It is not by any temporizing course that our opponents have got their present power, but by a bold go the whole policy and they will keep their power unless met in precisely the same way. If any thing is to be done, no time ought to be lost in furnishing McLean facts to act upon for the nominations may be made at the commencement of the session.

In great haste Yrs Sincerely
Ninian Edwards

Belleville, Ills
2 Dec 1829—

Dear Sir

Confidential

The following is an extract from a letter I wrote to the President himself

“Removals have been made since the adjournment of the Senate, at the instance of our Crawford Senator, which, Mr. McLean, our other Senator, and as warm a friend as you have in the nation, positively asserts were in violation of an explicit promise to him, that, nothing of the kind should be done without previously apprizing him of the intention to do so; appointments have been made to fill the vacancies thus produced without affording him, or the representatives of the state any opportunity of recommending their friends; and any individual appointed, like Mr. Kane himself, would prefer Mr. Van Buren to either Mr. Calhoun or yourself—They are all of that breed of Jackson men, to whom, as you will eventually be convinced, a decided majority of your active supporters at the last two elections, are more opposed than to any other politicians of

the state—Mr. Calhoun can not long remain ignorant that they have owed their success to the influence of men who are now, and ever have been opposed to his pretensions, and in favor of those of another. He will doubtless know that one of his warmest friends, who was appointed by Mr. Monroe, on the recommendation, and personal application, of the whole delegation from Vermont—a man whose capability and correctness are unquestioned, whose honesty is universally admitted, and has been recently testified to as *proverbial* in a letter from Col. Benton to Mr. Inghram, has been removed to make way for ———, who is utterly incapable of doing the business himself, and was and still is a public defaulter, of record, to the county of Sangamo for money collected for it as Sheriff. If Mr. Calhoun should find nothing in so many removals and appointments, thus made, to complain of, at present, he has too much sagacity not to perceive the effects which the continuation of such a course must necessarily produce upon himself, and it would not be wonderful if neither he nor his friends should be satisfied with it.”

Again

“As to ——— This man was also a candidate for the last legislature, in a Jackson county which elects three representatives, lost his election, and was beaten by an Adams man His securities, I, unhesitatingly, assert are not worth the one fifth part of the amount required . . Nor does any one else that I have conversed with believe that the one tenth of that amount could be made out of the whole of them . . &c., &c., &c., &c.,—”

My dear Sir, I have done, and will continue to do my best—but you ought not to be idle—nor shrink from the most thorough going and fearless course. It is your only chance. I think you may be restored—Were I in Congress I would risk any thing upon that event. Mr. Calhoun has a copy of the foregoing extract and much—much more. He will be disposed to do what he can for you. McLean, I

think, must feel the same disposition—But they cannot act without something to go upon. You must do what you can for yourself, and trust to them and others for the balance. If you who have been so greatly wronged should feel any delicacy about showing the machinations of your enemies—you should not calculate upon them gratuitously waiving all such considerations. You ought to get two copies of the record of ——— delinquency and send one to Mr. Inghram, and the other to McLean—You ought to spare no pains to show the kind of securities he tried to impose upon the Govt. He had been sheriff—knew these circumstances and will be considered even less excusable for offering, than McRoberts for accepting them. This is one of the very strongest grounds on which to attack him—and as he has almost robbed you of your office why should you forbear—Whatever you do, do it with energy—furnish the necessary proof &c.—

I have my doubts whether it would not be a great advantage to you to go on to Washington—Probably no other man stands quite as good a chance to be reinstated—Were I at Washington I would advise you to go on by all means—but as it is I know not what to advise. You have my best wishes most truly—Write to all your friends and stir them up.

Yr friend sincerely
Ninian Edwards.